Declaration of Majuli Island in Assam as World Heritage Site

3300. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have written a letter to UNESCO for declaring Majuli Island in Assam as the World Heritage site; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and UNESCO's response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A nomination dossier for considering the inscription of Majuli Island in Jorahat district of Assam on the World Heritage site has been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre as India'a entry for 2006, under cultural landscape category.

An expert committee from ICOMOS, an advisory body to UNESCO has evaluated the site and the decision of the World Heritage committee is expected to be pronounced in the ensuing 30th session of the committee scheduled to be held at Vilnius, Lithuania between 11th — 16th July 2006.

Heritage sites in Delhi

†3301. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of heritage sites in Delhi at present which are important from historical point of view;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of important historical Sites have been extincted in Delhi and have been encroached by land mafias and ancient idols therein have been sold abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to take back the lands of heritages from land mafias with a view to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c)As per survey of historcal buildings conducted by Maulvi Zafar Hasan (1913-15), 1,317 mounuments were listed in Delhi. Many of the structures listed in 1913—15 have been demolished, crumbled and encroached upon. As of now there are 175 monuments/sites declared as of national importance. Out of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

above, it is reported that twelve monuments are missing, list of which is enclosed as Statement-I. (See below) Encroachments have taken place in 14 protected monuments in Delhi, a list of which is placed at Statement-ll. (See below)

(d) Appropriate remedial action has been initiated under the provisions of Section 19 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rule 38 of Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules 1959 as well as under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to get the encroached area vacated and to remove unauthorised/ illegal construction built within the prohibited/regulated area with the assistance of State authorities and police.

Statement-I

List of Monuments Reported to be missing in Delhi

SI. No.	Name of Monument
1.	Tomb of Capt. Mc. Barnett & Others who fell in an attack on Kishanganj
2.	Tomb with three domes near Railway Station
3.	The Mori Gate of Sher Shah's Delhi
4.	Pool Chadar
5.	Alipur Cemetery
6.	Bara Khamba Cemetery
7.	Nicholson Statue, its platform, its surrounding gardens, paths and enclosure wall
8.	Site of Siege Battery bearing the inscription:—"Right Attack, Lieutenant F.R. Manscll, R.E., Directing Engineer, No. 1 Battery-Right, Major James Brind, R.A., Commanding, Armament five 18-pounders; seven 8 - inch howitzer. To silence Mori Bastion."
9.	Site of Siege Battery with following inscription: — "No. II Batteryt-Right, Major Edward Kayte, R.A., Commanding Armament two 1 - pounders; seven 8-inch howitzers, To breach Kashmir bastion."
10.	Inchla Wali Gumti
11.	Mound known as Joga Bai Comprised in part of Survey plot no. 167 as shown in the plan reproduced below.
12.	Shamsi Talab together with both the platform entrance gates

Statement-ll

List of Monuments/Site Encroached Upon in Delhi

Sl.1 Mo.	Name of the Monument/Site
1.	Qudasia mosque inside Qudsia Garden, Delhi
2.	Tughlaqabad
3.	Lothian Road Cemetery
4.	Portions of City Wall at Kashmeri Gate
5.	Tomb of Razia Sultan
6.	Purana Qila
7.	Sarai Shahji
8.	Begumpuri Mosque
9.	Sunehri Masjid, near Red Fort
10.	Arab ki Sarai
11.	Lal Gumbad, (Chirag Delhi)
12.	Raipur Mutiny Cemetery, Old Raipur Cantonment North Distt.
13.	Ancient Mosque, Palam
14.	D" Eremao Cemetery Kishanganj

Financial and technical assistance to conserve war monuments in Punjab

3302. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of senior officials from her Ministry recently visited border towns of Punjab to make a study about the kind of financial and technical assistance required to conserve war monuments there; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A team of Officials of Chandigarh Circle of Archaeological Survey of India visited border towns in Ferozepur District in response to the request from the Commissioner,